

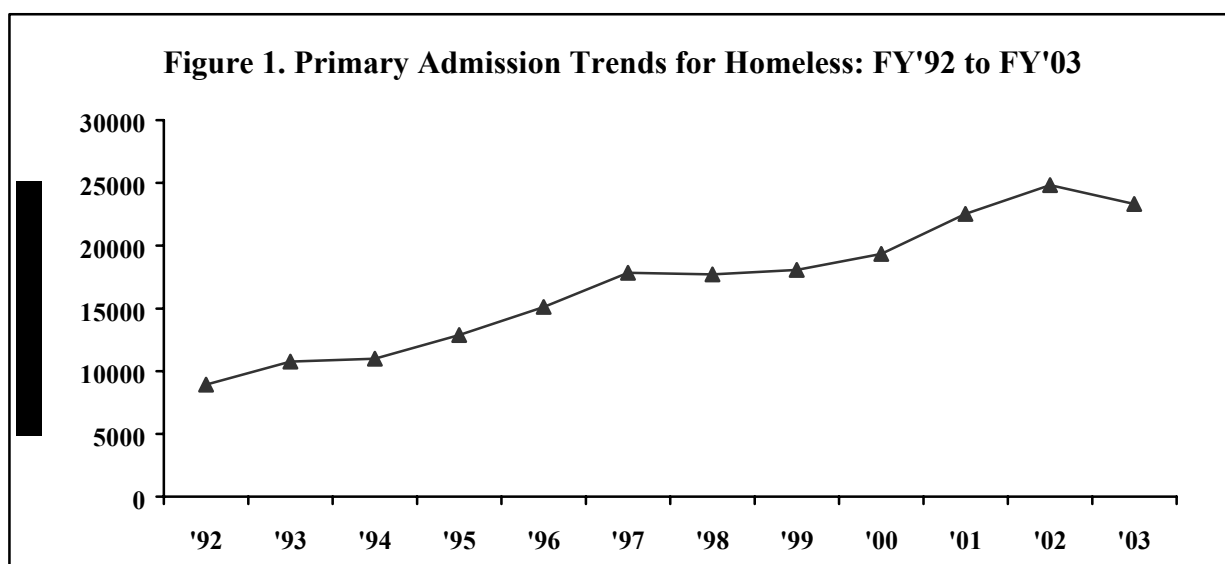
SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACT SHEET: ADULT HOMELESS ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

*This fact sheet provides information on all admissions to substance abuse treatment services. Data were reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Management Information System in FY 2003.*¹

Overall Treatment Admissions by Homeless Adults

In FY 2003, there were 23,344 admissions to substance abuse treatment services in Massachusetts who were homeless; of these 17 admissions were under 18 years of age.² The remainder of this fact sheet presents data on the 23,327 adults 18 and older. For information on substance abuse treatment services provided to clients under 18, please refer to the Adolescent Fact Sheet. Figure 1 illustrates the admission trend for homeless adults, 18 years and older, to residential and outpatient services for Fiscal Years 1992 through 2003. While, the number of homeless admissions declined from FY 2002 to FY 2003, the proportion of all adult admissions reporting homelessness remained unchanged.



Characteristics of Admissions by Homeless Adults

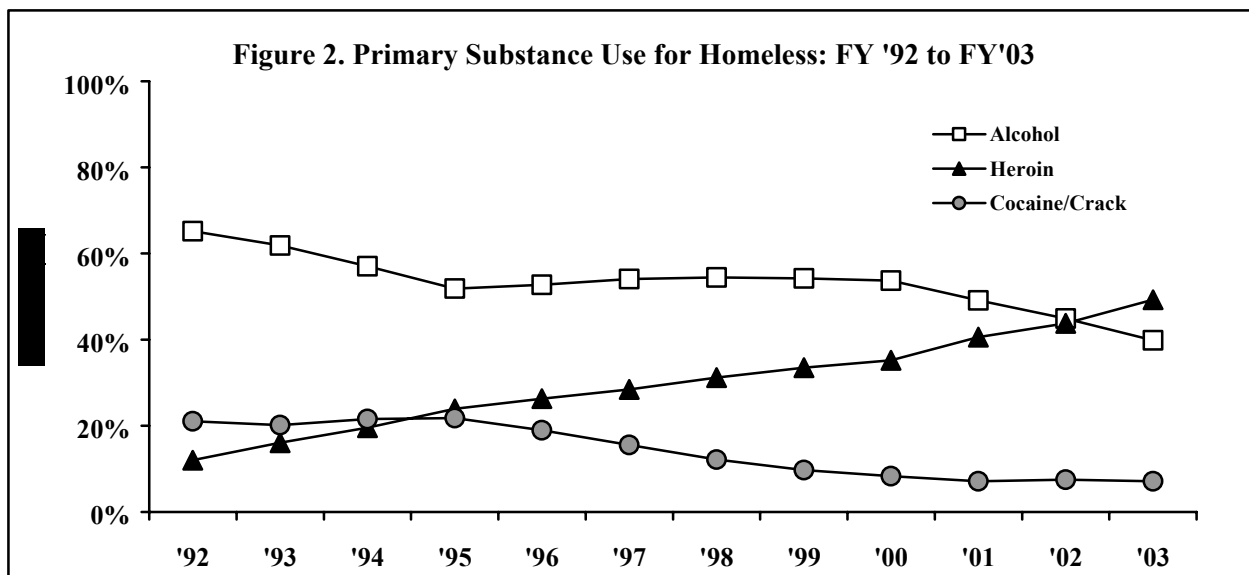
In FY 2003, adult admissions to substance abuse treatment who were homeless reported the following characteristics:

- 78.2% (18,249) were male and 21.8% (5,077) were female.
- 64.2% (14,980) were White, 15.9% (3,719) were Black, 16.3% (3,792) were Latino, and 3.6% (836) were other racial categories.
- 96.0% (22,397) were currently unemployed.
- 14% (3,279) were receiving Social Security Income.
- 31.8% (7,423) were receiving services from Department of Transitional Assistance.
- 24.0% (5,608) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 44.3% (10,333) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 35.0 (8,169) of the admissions were between the ages of 30-39, with a mean age of 37.4 years.
- 17.5% (4,093) were parents of children under six years of age, 5.8% (239) of these admissions reported living with their children. Thirty-four percent (8,031) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 2.1% (170) reported living with their children.

Primary Substance of Use

In FY 2003, homeless admissions reported heroin most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

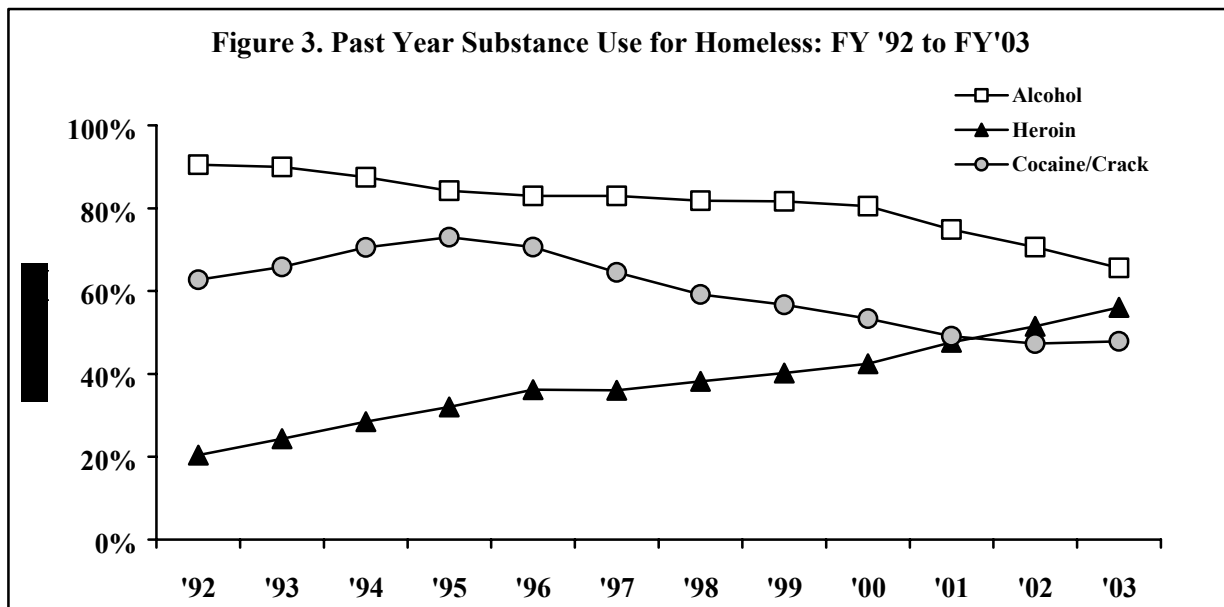
- 49.2% (11,486) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 39.8% (9,292) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 7.1% (1,667) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 1.4% (321) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 2.4% (561) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.



Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol remained the most reported substance used in the past year. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

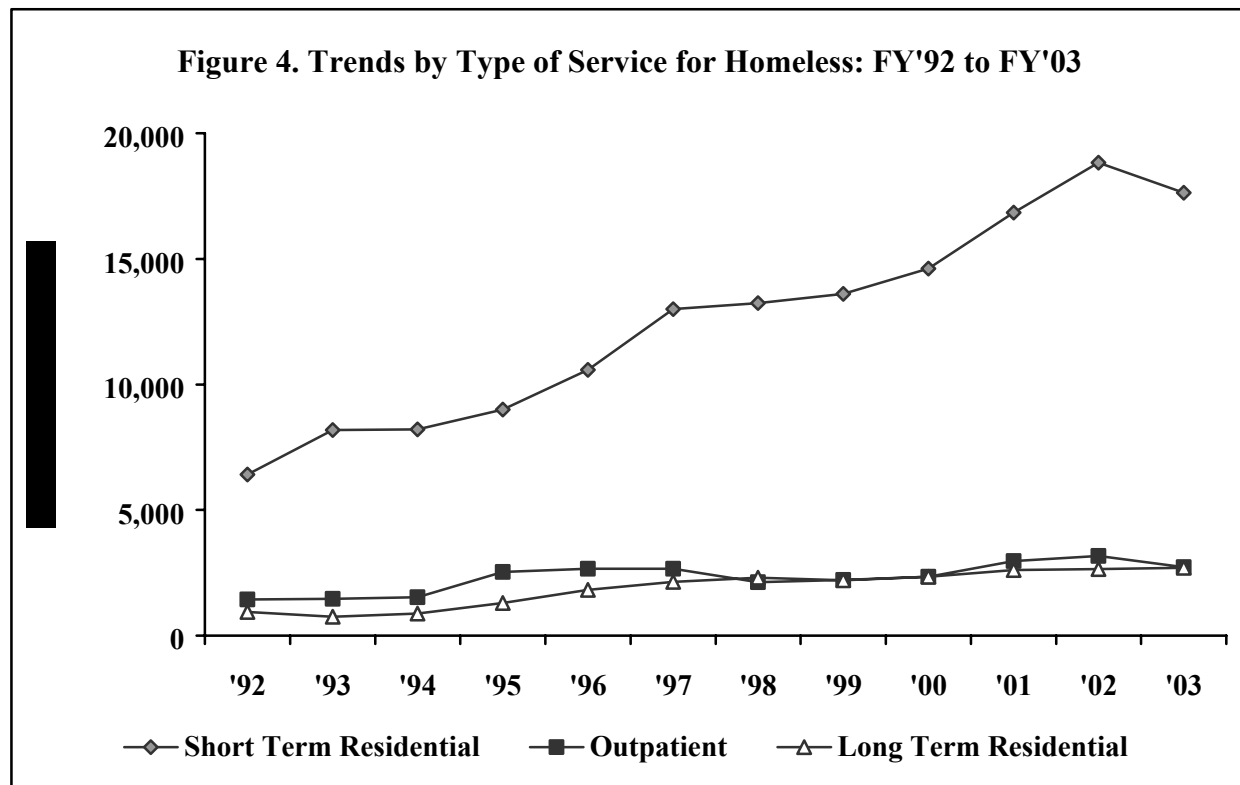
- 65.6% (15,294) reported using alcohol within the 12 months prior to admission.
- 56.1% (13,094) reported past year heroin use.
- 47.9% (11,171) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 18.2% (4,240) reported past year marijuana use.
- 25.5% (5,954) reported past year use of *other* drugs; this includes 8.7% other opiates/synthetics and 10.6% tranquilizers.



Admissions by Services Type

In FY 2003, admissions received services in the following service modalities:

- 75.6% (17,637) were admitted to Short Term Residential (less than 30 days) Services including Acute Treatment Services (15,495), Transitional Support Services (1,864), and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery (276).
- 11.7% (2,726) received Outpatient Services including Day Treatment (340), 1st Offender Drunk Driver (50), Outpatient Counseling (1,762), Case Management (78), Compulsive Gambling (8), 2nd Offender Aftercare (15), Criminal Justice Collaborative-Adult (12), Expanded Treatment Services (116), Acupuncture Detox (94), County Corrections (21), and Narcotic Treatment (230).
 - 1.0% (230) received Narcotic Treatment Services.
- 11.6% (2,694) were admitted to Long Term Residential (greater than 30 days) Services including Recovery Homes (1,892), Therapeutic Communities (350), 2nd Offender Residential (19), Specialized Residential for Women (92), Family Shelters (74), Social Models (166), and Tewksbury Stabilization (101).
- 1.1% (266) of primary admissions received Supportive Housing services.



¹ SAMIS data include information reported by all BSAS licensed substance abuse treatment programs for FY 1992 to FY 2003. These data include admissions to BSAS licensed programs that may be reimbursed by Medicaid or other public payers. Trends are reported beginning in FY 1992 when data were first collected in their current form.

² For more data on Substance Abuse see **MassCHIP**: <http://MassCHIP.state.ma.us>

Short Term (<30 days) Residential Treatment Services Admissions by Homeless Adults

In FY 2003, there were 17,637 homeless admissions to Short Term Residential (less than 30 days) Services in Massachusetts. This includes admissions to Acute Treatment Services, Transitional Support Services, and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery

Characteristics of Admissions

Homeless admissions to Short Term Residential Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 81.4% (14,364) were male and 18.6% (3,273) were female.
- 63.3% (11,162) were White, 16.0% (2,826) were Black, and 17.4% (3,072) were Latino.
- 96.9% (17,098) were unemployed.
- 17.9% (3,155) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 47.0% (8,294) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 34.7% (6,125) of the admissions were between the ages of 30-39, with a mean age of 37.8 years.
- 16.2% (2,858) were parents of children under six years of age, 1.3% (38) of these admissions reported living with their children. Thirty-three percent (5,861) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 0.9 (55) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Homeless admissions to Short Term Residential Services reported heroin most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 53.1% (9,359) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 40.6% (7,168) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 4.1% (719) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 0.3% (60) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 1.9% (331) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol and heroin were the most reported substance used in the past year among homeless admissions to Short Term Residential Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 63.4% (11,186) reported past year alcohol use.
- 59.4% (10,477) reported past year heroin use.
- 39.9% (7,037) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 12.7% (2,243) reported past year marijuana use.
- 19.1% (3,366) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 6.1% other opiates/synthetics, 0.3% PCP/other hallucinogens, 0.4% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 8.9% Tranquilizers, 0.2% Barbiturates/sedatives, less than 0.1% inhalants, 0.2% over the counter drugs, and 3.1% other drugs.

Types of Services

Primary homeless admissions to Short Term Residential Services received care in the following types of programs:

- 87.9% (15,495) were admitted to Acute Treatment Services.
- 12.1% (2,142) received Transitional Support Services including Transitional Support Services and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery Services.

Outpatient Services Admissions by Homeless Adults

In FY 2003, there were 2,726 homeless admissions to Outpatient Services in Massachusetts. This includes admissions to Day Treatment, 1st Offender Drunk Driver, Outpatient Counseling, Case Management, Compulsive Gambling, 2nd Offender Aftercare, Criminal Justice Collaborative-Adult, Expanded Treatment Services, Acupuncture Detox, County Corrections, and Narcotic Treatment.

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, homeless admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 69.6% (1,897) were male and 30.4% (828) were female.
- 63.1% (1,719) were White, 19.4% (528) were Black, and 12.8% (349) were Latino.
- 91.4% (2,492) were unemployed.
- 41.1% (1,121) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 31.3% (854) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 34.3% (936) of the admissions were between the ages of 30-39, with a mean age of 36.4 years.
- 20.4% (555) were parents of children under six years of age, 20.4% (113) of these admissions reported living with their children. Thirty-seven percent (1,021) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 6.4% (65) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Homeless admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services reported alcohol and heroin most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 38.2% (1,042) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 34.8% (948) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 16.3% (444) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 7.0% (190) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 3.7% (102) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol was the most reported substance used in the past year among homeless admissions to all Outpatient Treatment Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 68.9% (1,877) reported past year alcohol use.
- 57.3% (1,563) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 40.7% (1,108) reported past year heroin use.
- 31.3% (852) reported past year marijuana use.
- 33.6% (915) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 11.7% other opiates/synthetics, 2.1% PCP/other hallucinogens, 1.7% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 11.1% Tranquilizers, 1.4% Barbiturates/sedatives, 0.6% inhalants, 0.6% over the counter drugs, and 4.3% other drugs.

Types of Services

Homeless admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services received care in the following types of programs:

- 8.4% (230) received Narcotic Treatment Services.
- 2.4% (65) received DAE Services including 1st Offender Drunk Driver, and 2nd Offender Aftercare Services.
- 89.2% (2,431) received other outpatient services including Day Treatment, Outpatient Counseling, County Corrections, Case Management, Compulsive Gambling, Acupuncture Detox, Criminal Justice Collaborative (Adult), and Expanded Treatment Services.

Long Term Residential (>30 days) Treatment Services Admissions by Homeless Adults

In FY 2003, there were 2,694 admissions to Long Term Residential (>30 days) Treatment Services in Massachusetts. This includes admissions to Recovery Homes, Therapeutic Communities, 2nd Offender Residential, Specialized Residential for Women, Family Shelters, Social Models, and Tewksbury Stabilization.

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, homeless admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 68.3% (1,841) were male and 31.7% (853) were female.
- 70.2% (1,892) were White, 12.4% (333) were Black, and 13.0% (349) were Latino.
- 98.2% (2,646) were unemployed.
- 44.3% (1,193) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 40.9% (1,102) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 38.4% (1,034) of the admissions were between the ages of 30-39, with a mean age of 35.7 years.
- 23.3% (629) were parents of children under six years of age, 11.1% (70) of these admissions reported living with their children. Thirty-nine percent (1,062) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 4.2% (45) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Homeless admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services reported heroin most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 40.5% (1,090) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 35.8% (963) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 17.3% (467) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 2.4% (65) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 4.1% (109) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission cocaine and crack were the most reported substance used in the past year among homeless admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 88.6% (2,386) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 75.6% (2,036) reported past year alcohol use.
- 52.3% (1,409) reported past year heroin use.
- 39.1% (1,053) reported past year marijuana use.
- 57.5% (1,548) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 21.7% other opiates/synthetics, 2.7% PCP/other hallucinogens, 4.0% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 20.9% Tranquilizers, 2.8% Barbiturates/sedatives, 0.9% inhalants, 1.7% over the counter drugs, and 2.8% other drugs.

Types of Services

Homeless admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services received care in the following types of programs:

- 93.1% (2,509) received treatment in Recovery Homes including Therapeutic Communities, Social Model, and Tewksbury Stabilization.
- 3.4% (92) were admitted to Specialized Residential Services for Women.
- 2.7% (74) received treatment in Family Shelters.
- 0.7% (19) were admitted to 2nd Offender Residential Services.